

Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

Newsletter to Members 2016 SPRING.....ISSUE #2/4

*Discovering our history,
Preserving our past,
Sharing our stories.*



Sarah Emery was Hoggatt School's first teacher in 1862..

Ames Historical Society Board:

Co-President	Mary Atherly
Co-President	Kathy Svec
Secretary	Lynette Spicer
Treasurer	Ken Cameron

Don Beitz, Shannon Bardole, Bob Bourne, Jan Breitman, Keith Bystrom, Peter Hallock, Mary Logsdon, Carol Phillips, Ryan Riley, Ardy Ulrichson, Sharon Wirth, Hank Zaletel
The Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month 6:45pm at 416 Douglas. Members welcome!

Staff:

Executive Director	Casie Vance
Projects Coordinator	Alex Fejfar
Collections Mgr./Volunteer Coord.	Hannah Frederick

Emeritus Staff:

Alan Spohnheimer, Margaret Vance, Dennis Wendell

Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to engage our diverse public and provide unique opportunities to learn about Ames history.

Headquarters: 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010
Hours: Open Mon-Fri, 1-5pm, Sat 10am-4pm
Mail: PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010
Phone: 515-232-2148
E-mail: info@ameshistory.org
Website: www.AmesHistory.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ameshistoricalsociety

The newsletter is published four times a year for AHS members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above. Editor: Kathy Svec

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School, near 18th and Burnett, Ames, Iowa. It will re-open on June 19 for the 2016 season of open houses and programs.

Grand Re-Opening of Hoggatt School Sunday, June 19, 2:00-4:00 pm on the grounds of Meeker School, 18th & Burnett

The construction fences are down, the school grounds have been restored and the little historic school house will be open once again after two years of closure.



Not only has the Ames Community School District invested in new buildings throughout Ames in the last three years, but they also invested in important preservation of this old one. Hoggatt School has been moved to a new location on Meeker School's grounds, oriented so the door now faces north and set on a sturdy new foundation with a crawlspace so regular inspections can take place.

The Society is so grateful for the careful work done by contractors under the guidance of Gerry Peters, school district facilities manager and the Society's Hoggatt Committee: Sharon Wirth, Peter Hallock and Carol Alexander Phillips.

The brick sidewalk that will be installed at Hoggatt using rescued 1905 pavers will be done in May, greatly enhanced by a major gift from Lois and Bob Vohs of Ames. Lois was a one-room school teacher and Bob attended one as a child – so the project has special meaning to them!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL HOGGATT EVENTS:

● Hoggatt School Grand Re-Opening

Sunday, June 19: 2:00-4:00 pm; Celebrate Father's Day with ice cream, a soap-making demo and 1860s sing-a-long.

● The Eighth Grade Examination by Peter Hallock

Sunday, June 26: 2:15 pm; In the 1860s, few people were schooled beyond the eighth grade, but you'll be amazed by what they were expected to know.

● Civil War-Era Games

Sunday, July 3: 2:00-4:00 pm; Play the simple but energetic games that school children played in the 1860s.

● Canning Demonstration by Hannah Frederick

Sunday, July 10: 2:15 pm; Learn about the early history of home canning and how to do it yourself by the simple water bath techniques.

● Children, Mind Your Manners! by Glenn Sibbel

Sunday, July 24: 2:15 pm; 1860s children were expected to speak the truth and be honest, punctual, clean, and kind – or face consequences.

● Civil War-Era Games; Sunday, August 7: 2:00-4:00 pm

● What's in Your Lunchbox? by Carol Alexander Phillips

Sunday, August 14: 2:15 pm; What foods did 1860s school children eat for lunch? What time was dinner? How did prairie life affect the food choices?

Hoggatt School will be open Sundays, June 19 - August 21, 2:00 to 4:00 pm
or by appointment through October 31 (call 515-232-2148).

Lecture Series Continues

Presented in partnership with Ames Public Library.
All lectures at Ames Public Library's Farwell Brown
Auditorium, 515 Douglas, Ames.
Free & open to the public.
Door prize drawing each evening.

Tuesday, May 24, 7pm

NOTE Change of Topic:

The Carr Family & Carr's Pool Story

By Kathy Svec, Ames Historical Society co-president,



Hear the remarkable story of a unique Ames family. Emmet and Alpha Carr farmed at the east end of 16th Street and ran a sand and gravel operation in the Skunk

River. Although they were childless, they raised over 80 foster children and - out of concern for children trying to swim in the hazardous Skunk River - built the first public swimming pool in Ames. Generations of Ames residents remember Carr's Pool vividly and with great fondness!

We regret the conflict that arose in Doug Biggs' schedule that prevents him from speaking on May 24 about the ISU football controversy of 1894-97. He has promised to deliver this talk in the 2017 series.

Wednesday, June 29, 7pm

From Orphan to Adviser: The Life of Billy Sunday

By Craig Bishop, author of *Billy Sunday, the Baseball Evangelist (1862-1935)*



Born in Ames, Iowa in 1862, Billy Sunday was a Civil War orphan who became famous throughout America during his lifetime. Raised in Glenwood and Davenport, he became a professional baseball player and

later, an influential Christian minister and adviser to Presidents and community leaders. Known for his down-to-earth and athletic style of preaching, Sunday's message appealed to Americans in need of idealism on social issues. Bishop's presentation will include still photos, audio testimonies of Mrs. Sunday and films of Mr. Sunday in his last years.

"Expansion" Exhibit Programs

— A Time of —

EXPANSION

THE AMES BUILDING BOOM OF 1915-1916

The current exhibit at the Ames History Center looks back 100 years to 1915-16 when the citizens of Ames saw their town take a great leap into the modern era.

The exhibit tells the stories of four iconic buildings constructed in those years through text, photographs, artifacts and flip-up fun facts:

- The 1915 City Hall - Municipal Building
- Mary Greeley Hospital
- The Masonic Building
- The Sheldon-Munn Hotel

The exhibit has been extended to Saturday, October 29.
On view Mon.-Fri., 1:00-5:00 pm, Sat. 10:00 am-4:00 pm.

EXHIBIT PROGRAMS

The following special programs take cues from the exhibit to provide a wider view of events 100 years ago.

Supported by the Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau's Community Grant Program.

May 9 - June 1:

Pick up Coloring Contest sheets at the History Center or online, color your masterpiece and submit by June 1

June 11:

Community Ice Cream Social & Coloring Contest
Open Gallery, 12-3pm at the Ames History Center

July 5:

Classic Movie Night:

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, 1916 version,
Ames Public Library Auditorium, 6:30pm



August 25:

History Talk giving an overview of all four buildings featured in the exhibit,
Ames Public Library Auditorium, 7pm

September 22:

History Talk on the Sheldon-Munn Hotel,
Ames Public Library Auditorium, 7pm

October 27:

History Talk on the Octagon Center for the Arts located in the Masonic Building,
Ames Public Library Auditorium, 7pm

All programs free & open to the public.

Society News – Around the Ames History Center

More Events!

Fill your calendar with a variety of special events from the Ames Historical Society:



Friday-Saturday, May 20-21:

Book Sale at the Ames History Center

10 am - 5 pm both days

(Donations gratefully accepted until May 19)

Friday, June 3:

Art Walk Open House

5-8 pm, at the History Center



Tuesday, July 19:

Kids' Movie Night: *Night at the Museum*
Ames Public Library Auditorium, 6:30 pm

Sunday, September 25:

Octagon Art Festival Open House

10 am-5 pm, at the History Center



Thursday, September 29:

Music Walk Open House,

5-8 pm, at the History Center

Tuesday, October 18:

Members After Hours at the History Center

7-8:30 pm (members only)

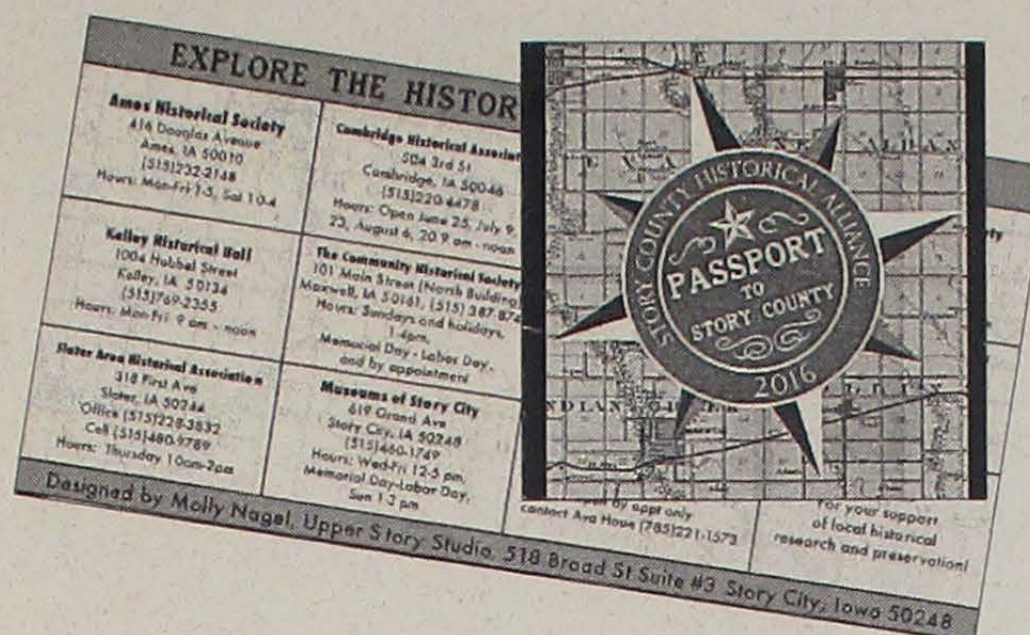


Friday, November 11:

Snow Magic Kickoff, 5-8pm (open house)

Saturday, December 3:

Old-Fashioned Christmas, 11 am-2pm



Pick Up a Story County Passport!

Explore your own "backyard"! Local history groups in Story County first worked together during the Iowa Sesquicentennial in 1996 and had so much fun, they have continued to meet on a quarterly basis. This spring they have put together a "Passport to Story County" to encourage residents to visit all eleven organizations. Stamped passports completed by September 12 will be put into a drawing for a Story County-themed gift basket. The free passport is available now at the Ames History Center.

Welcome New Board Members



New to the Society's Board are Ryan Riley and Mary Logsdon. Ryan is on the staff at ISU's College of Human Sciences and Mary is the librarian at the Ames Public Library who oversees adult programming. We are very pleased to have their enthusiasm and special areas of expertise on the Board. We thank outgoing Board member Lonnie Mannes for his three years of service on the Board. Lonnie served on the Finance Committee and was especially helpful in encouraging local residents to become members.

New Membership Goal Set

The Society's Membership Committee has set a goal of 50 new members in 2016 and since January, 16 new have joined our ranks. Memberships provide essential, broad-based, ongoing support for the Society's operations. Know someone who should be a member? Let us know and we'll send an invitation.

Wendell Retirement



Dennis Wendell was honored after the March Annual Meeting with a reception that recognized his invaluable work as Society Curator from 2001-2015. The well-attended gathering was a salute to his work in gathering the first significant collection of Ames artifacts and archives since Farwell Brown began his work as Ames Historian. Happily,

he will continue to work on special projects and is available for questions and advice.



Boxes Serve as Carter Memorial



A generous donation was given to the Society in memory of Ames resident, Bill Carter. Bill was a veteran of WWII and had dedicated years of his life to the Police Department. The donation was used to buy almost 20 large archival textile boxes to house all of our WWII and police officer uniforms. These boxes will ensure that the uniforms are in the proper environment to be preserved for generations to come.

Collections Manager Hannah Frederick (above) inspects a uniform coat. Memorials can be designated for similar special projects at the History Center.

Flowers Enhance History Center

For Earth Day this year, Society staff partnered with Nevada High School's Day of Service. Fourteen students



planted flowers and cleaned up around the History Center and downtown. The flowers adorn new flower pots by both the front and back doors. Special thanks go

to the Skunk River Coalition Fund for their thoughtful donation that allowed us to purchase the flower pots and flowers – and a bike rack for the back door.

Proud of Our Youth Volunteer

For the past ten years, the Volunteer Center of Story County has presented the Story County Youth Volunteer Awards. This year the Society nominated one of our high school volunteers, Makayla Houser and she won! Makayla is a sophomore at Gilbert High School who has been helping us since August. She comes in after school for a few hours each week to help with our big Main Street Research Project. She has spent countless hours getting the research into a database so that it is usable to both staff and the community. Volunteer Coord. Hannah Frederick (left) attended the award ceremony at the Memorial Union with Makayla. We have so many wonderful and dedicated youth volunteers and are truly grateful for their hard work.

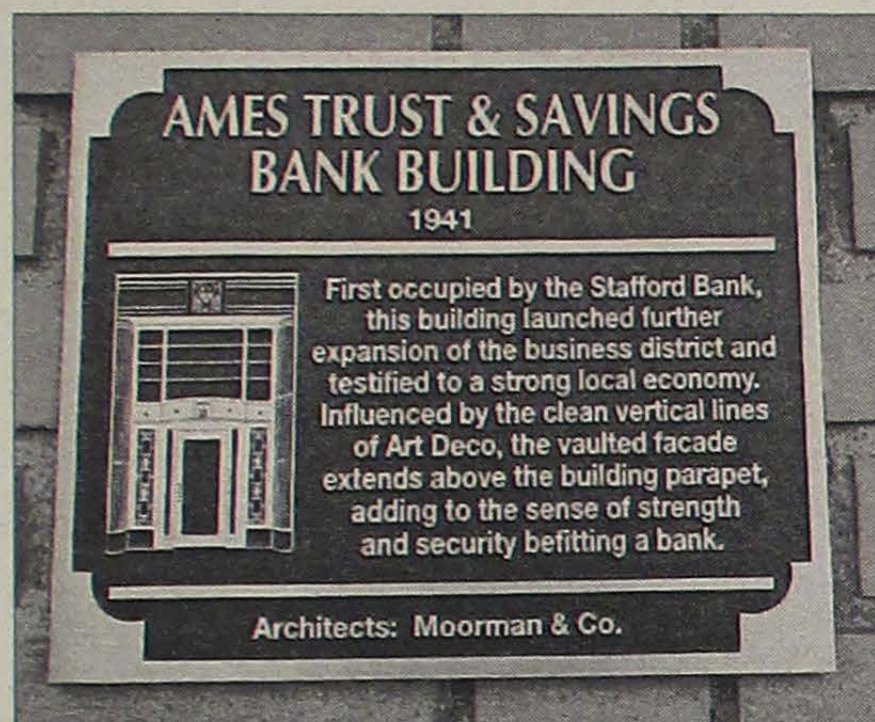


Ames Hosts IMA Conference

Residents interested in attending the 2016 Annual Meeting and Conference of the Iowa Museum Association in Ames October 16-18 can follow developments at www.iowamuseums.org. Events will be at the Scheman Building and on campus and the Society will host several open houses for attendees.

Downtown Plaque Tour May 28

On Saturday, May 28th from 10:00 am to noon, visit downtown Ames for a walking tour highlighting Ames history and architecture. The self-guided, free tour will follow the newly installed historical plaques that now adorn 21 buildings.



On May 28, pick up a tour booklet at Tom Evans Park (Burnett & Main) or Ames Public Library. Costumed characters will be at numerous stops to share stories about people and architecture. Enjoy free popcorn and flower seeds along the way with a photo display and refreshments at Ames Public Library.

The Plaques for Historic Buildings Project is a collaboration of the City of Ames Historic Preservation Commission, the Ames Historical Society, and the Main Street Cultural District.

Each plaque features an illustration, historical information and architectural description. They were fabricated in Pella, IA, by the Pella Engraving Company. The City of Ames Historic Preservation Commission provided a \$200 grant to building owners to assist with the plaque cost of about \$500.

"A staff artist in Pella did an incredible job of creating an illustration unique to each building and the newspaper archive database at the historical society has been incredibly helpful with the research," said volunteer Sharon Wirth who worked many hours on the project along with Judy Gilger and Jason Dietzenbach. Gilger agreed, stating, "Staff at Ames Historical Society has provided invaluable assistance."

Now that there is a critical mass (21 plaques), the public is invited to this special event to learn about these buildings and their ties to Ames history. For additional information contact Wirth at sharonwirth@yahoo.com.

Old Town Home Tour in June

The Old Town Neighborhood Association is readying for its Home Tour on Sunday, June 12, 1:00 to 4:00 pm.



There will be 10 sites open with most showcasing both house and garden. Admission will be \$10, free for children under age 12; tickets available at the

tour. This highly anticipated event features some of Ames' unique historic homes. Plan to spend a pleasant Sunday afternoon with OTNA!

Senior Variety Show Archive

Heartland Senior Services, headquartered in Ames, has sponsored the Senior Variety Show annually since 1994. The show features the varied talents of over 100 of our community's older residents each year.



The Society recently received their archives including 11 VHS tapes of their lively shows. The Society is pleased to have a record of another facet of the performing arts in Ames.

2015 Annual Report Available

Members who would like to receive a copy of the 2015 Annual Report may request it by email or look at it online on our website, www.ameshistory.org. It details the Society's accomplishments as well as those who were involved with and responsible for our many successes.

After seeing the report, City Councilperson Amber Corrieri sent this note to Exec. Director Casie Vance,

"Congratulations on another great year! I continue to be impressed with you and your staff's effort in increasing programming and broadening your outreach efforts. Additionally, your diverse income streams are quite an accomplishment - an area in which many nonprofits struggle. Nice work. You should be proud."

Society News – Around the Ames History Center

Preservation Awards Announced

The Ames Historic Preservation Commission presented its annual Preservation Awards at the April 26 Ames City Council meeting. Three recipients received awards: Haila Architecture, Ames Community School District and Sharon Wirth. **Haila** was awarded for its sensitive remodeling and re-use of the Ames Trust & Savings Bank Building at 5th and Kellogg for its offices. The **Ames Community School District** was awarded for its careful moving and stabilization of Hoggatt School at 18th and Burnett. And, **Sharon Wirth** was awarded for her tireless efforts on behalf of historic preservation and preserving the local story in Ames. Sharon also serves on the Society's Board.

Staff Completes Programs

We are so proud of staff members Casie Vance (top) and Hannah Frederick, both of whom completed Master's Degrees while working full-time.



Executive Director Vance studied at Drake University, Des Moines, to receive her Master's in Public Administration. Collections Mgr. Frederick worked through an online program at the University of Oklahoma to receive her Master's in Museum Studies/Collections Management. Their advanced work has added immeasurably to their expertise in serving the community and handling matters at the History Center.



Casie has also completed the Chamber of Commerce's 2016 Leadership Ames program and will graduate May 16. This program gives attendees an in-depth look at various aspects of the Ames community. Both Casie and Hannah are quickly becoming experts in "all things Ames" (as is Alex Fejfar, Projects Coordinator).

Announcing: Tess!



April 10 marked the expansion of Casie and Kellen Vance's family with the arrival of little Tess. Both baby and mother are doing well. Casie will be on maternity leave until May 18 when she will return part time until June 7, then resume her full-time schedule. Until then, Hannah and Alex have taken on extra duties to keep operations flowing smoothly.

Save the Date for the Benefit

Hold the date: **Saturday, August 27, 5:30pm** for the Society's Annual Benefit Dinner. The gala event will feature the **premier** of a new documentary by Teresa Larson and Alex Fejfar, "**From Classrooms to Condominiums: the Roosevelt School Story.**" The film will feature a look at the building's past and present through photographs and interviews with key individuals. Watch for more details on what should be a festive evening!

News briefs

- **Hoggatt School Ribbon Cutting**, Thursday, June 9, at noon at 18th & Burnett; public welcome.
- **Two new hallway exhibits** at the History Center are Native American Tools and Early Cars in Ames.
- Join the 1303 people who "**like**" us on Facebook.
- Two-wheeled visitors to the History Center will enjoy the back door **bike rack** donated by Skunk River Cycles and the Skunk River Coalition Fund.
- During the May 20-21 Book Sale, items in the gift shop will be **10% off**.
- The **History Trailer** will again travel to the Main Street Farmers' Market on the last Saturdays of June, July, August and September.



- The Society received a **\$1,500 grant** through the Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau's Community Grant Program to support special events in conjunction with the "Expansion" exhibit. L to R: Alex Fejfar, Casie Vance, Bob Bosselman, Kathy Svec, Hannah Frederick.

Society Wish List

- Donated books for our annual Book Sale, due by May 19.
- Ames photos from 1960s (largely missing from Ames Tribune archive)
- Funds for a 2nd humidifier w/ auto-shutoff ~\$185
- Ongoing subscription to newspaperarchive.com (6 months - \$99.95)

Let us know: 515-232-2148 or info@ameshistory.org



Sheldon-Munn Memories

Excerpted from a story by Farwell Brown and reprinted in conjunction with the "Expansion" exhibit

1915-16 had been a big year in the annals of Ames history. The Sheldon-Munn Hotel [that opened that year] comes to mind particularly because it was there that the Brown family gathered for its Christmas dinner in 1919. It was a few days after my ninth birthday.

As early as 1902, Ames' early hotels had begun to outlive their usefulness in a growing college community. It was the consensus among business leaders that Ames needed a new and modern hotel.

After 12 years of considering proposals, the "Ames Improvement Company" was organized to construct a hotel "that would meet, not only the immediate needs, but the future needs of a growing city." Parley Sheldon, banker and mayor of Ames, and H.L. and A.H. Munn, lumber yard owners, contracted for the hotel's construction in June 1915.

The Sheldon-Munn Hotel was formally opened on May 31, 1916. ISC Dean C.F. Curtiss was toastmaster at a formal dinner that evening with many dignitaries on the agenda - properly launching the new, modern social and service center of Ames.

The hotel provided 72 guest rooms, a large ballroom, private dining room, meeting rooms, sales display rooms, a four-chair barber shop, a large main dining room and a coffee shop. The dining facilities were served by a large kitchen with six full-time chefs!

The new hotel was the meeting and show place for town and college, for there was no Memorial Union. The hotel was booked months ahead for social events such as fraternity and sorority dances and professional meetings. It was not uncommon for the Sheldon-Munn to host - all at the same time - a ballroom dance, private dinner party, a smoker, convention group and a main dining room full of "off the street" guests.

It was to this place that the Brown family came for their Christmas dinner on December 25, 1919. Grandfather and Grandmother Brown had attained the age and family members had grown, so the hotel provided the ideal place for that important family event that year. A long table had been reserved in the main dining room. As we arrived, we were directed to the second floor ladies' parlor to await the arrival of the rest of the

uncles, aunts, cousins, and, of course, the grandparents.

I will never forget the hotel lobby that day. It was terribly cold outdoors and as we entered on the south side of the building, a burning log fire in the fireplace greeted us. The lobby was much larger than today and the original ceilings were high with square pillars that were marble-looking. Tailored drapes were dark blue and monogrammed with the letters "S.M." A string ensemble was playing near the huge fireplace. They had several regular musicians who played every evening.

After the family had gathered, we were called to the dining room. It extended to the Kellogg side and all along the alley side on the north. The dining room ceiling was high with molded plaster scroll-work.

When the main dining room opened, the string trio moved from the lobby to an elevated alcove on the south wall. Dinner music was a regular feature of both weekday and Sunday dinner hours and holidays.

Before we ate, Grandfather K.W. Brown gave the blessing. He held up his hand as the musicians completed a selection and asked that "all be quiet for a moment." The room was hushed. Then we were served! The waiters were quite formal and precise. One was Henry Gater who was from one of the first black families to reside in Ames.

Sheldon-Munn Christmas Menu \$1.50		
Celery	Blue Points	Oysters
Entrée of Fish, Venetian Dessert of Salmon Flavored Club House Chips		
Young Caper, Braised a la Cumberland Iowa Special Fennel Goose, Spiced Apple Chutney Dressing Roast Turkey, Cranberry Sauce		
Marinated or Stewed Potatoes Garden Pars		
Pineapple Sherbet (Our Make) French Fritters		
Head Lettuce, Thousand Island Dressing Chinese Wafers		
Apple Pie	English Plum Pudding	Mince Pie
Sliced Oranges Chilledly		
Neapolitan Ice Cream	Coffee	Cake
Serving Dec. 25, 1919		

There were fluted goblets, the tableware was silver, the tablecloths white damask with linen napkins. The drapery was a rich blue with gold braid borders and the "S.M." monogram.

Christmas dinner at Grandmother's was always complete: two kinds of pie could be assumed, and the Sheldon-Munn proved

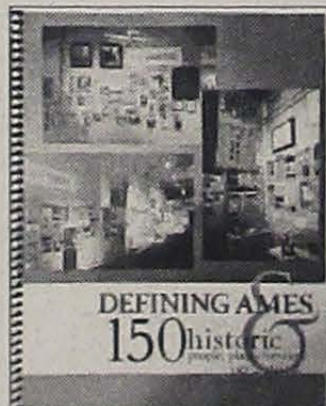
to be no exception. I could not have detailed the content of the multi-course dinner had not a local resident shown me the 1919 printed menu for that day that she had in her possession. What a Christmas dinner - and all for a dollar and a half!

Ames Historical Society
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Museum Shop



**10% off in the Shop May 20, 21
during the Book Sale**

NEW DVD: Society-produced video: "A Most Magnificent Gift – The Mary Greeley Story" - each \$15

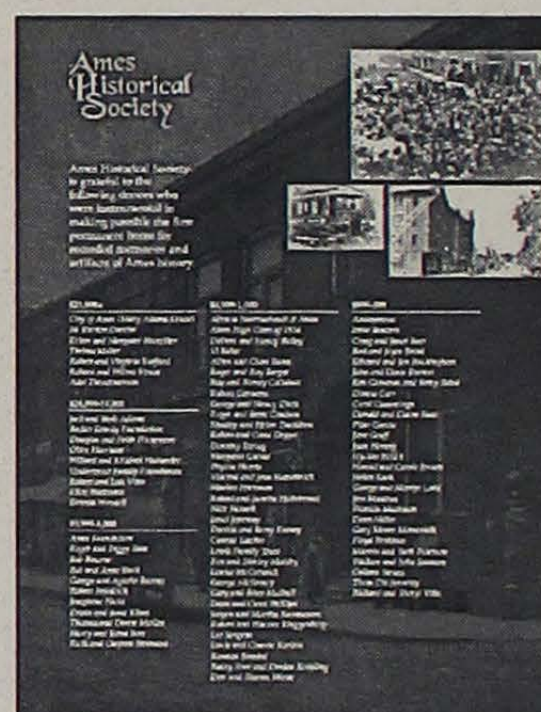
DEFINING AMES: Second Edition
all text from the Sesquicentennial exhibit – just \$10!

AHS LOGO BOOK BAG: canvas, \$15

**Bring this coupon for 25% off your entire
purchase in the Museum Shop.**

(members only; expires June 30, 2016)

Open Mon-Fri 1-5pm, Sat 10am-4pm or by appointment



New in the History Center lobby is a large donor recognition panel acknowledging those who were instrumental in making possible the first permanent home for Ames history. The successful Building Fund Campaign ran from 2008 to 2012, in the midst of the recession – defying the odds!

Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label (above your name) for the date yours is due. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Society, allowing us to continue to be a valued community resource. We thank you!

Introductory - 1st year	\$15	Partner	\$250
Basic	\$30	Benefactor	\$500
Friend	\$50	Patron	\$1,000
Sustaining	\$100		

Name _____

Address _____

Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010